कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरविंद नेताम) : (क) और (ख) पंजाब सरकार ने सूचना दी है कि हाल ही की बाढ़ से 14.74 लाख एकड़ क्षेत्र में फसलें नष्ट हो गई हैं ।

(ग) और (घ) 11 से 19 जुलाई, 1993 तक हुई वर्षा और बाढ़ से रोपड़; पटियाला, लुधियाना, संगरूर, अमृतसर, कपूरथला और फिरोजपुर राजस्व जिलों में कुछ भण्डारण परिसरों में भण्डारित 92246 मीटरी टन गेहूं तथा 29680 मीटरी टन चावल प्रभावित हुआ है ।

(ङ) राज्य सरकार से प्राप्त सूचना के अनुसार 3245 हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र रेत भरने/भू-क्षरण से प्रभावित हुआ है ।

(च) रेत से भरी/क्षरित भूमि को ठीक करने के लिए प्रभावित किसानों को संस्थागत सहायता प्रदान की जाएगी ।

Setting up the Milk Product Processing Units in Private Sector

2275. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are liberalising the policy of setting up milk product processing units in favour of Private Sector;

(b) whether the co-operative sector currently enjoying monopoly has protested against Government policy; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIVIND NETAM) : (a) Yes, Sir, The new industrial policy announced by the Government of India in July, 91 has liberalised a number of industries including Dairy from the purview of compulsory licensing.

(b) and (c) The co-operative sector does not enjoy the monopoly in this regard. However, co-operative sector has in general welcomed the promulgation of Milk and Milk Production Order, 1992.

Low Consumption of Fertilizers

2276. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that despite good monsoon this year the intake of fertilizers is expected to decline as compared to that of last season;

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) what are the reasons according to the Government and export for this decline;

(d) what would be the effect on food production owing to low consumption of fertilizers; and

(e) what are the measures contemplated by Government to meet this situation so as to keep the food production normal and to mitigate the difficulties being faced by the fertilizer industries within the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE *MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI* ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) During 1993-94, as on 15-7-1993, the sales of urea registered an increase of 27% compared to the same period last year while that of DAP and MOP registered a decline of 56 and 44 per cent respectively as shown below :

(Lakh tonnes)

Product	Kharif 92	Kharif 93
Urea	24.74	31.35
DAP	8.66	3.83
MOP (up to 20-7-93)	5.35	3.03

(c) Decline in the sales of DAP and MOP has been mainly due to increase in their prices consequent on their decontrol in August, 1992.

(d) and (e) Fertilizer consumption is one of the several factors contributing to food grains production. The decline in phosphatic and potassic fertilizer consumption is not likely to have an immediate adverse impact on food grain production in the country. In Order to mitigate the long term effects the following measures have been taken by Government :

(1) Rs. 340 crores (1992-93) and Rs. 756 crores (during 1993-94) have been provided for sale of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers with concession to the farmers.

(2) The indigenous fertilizer industry are being assisted by—

(a) restricting the current years concession to indigenous production only ;

(b) reduction in railway freight in respect of raw material such as phosphatic acid, rock phosphatic etc. ;